ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

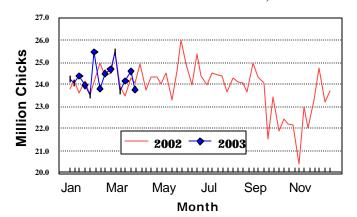
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 23.7 million during the week ending April 5, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 2002, and down 3 percent from the previous week, and included 3.0 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through April 5, 2003 were 340.4 million, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 24.4 million, down 1 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and down 3 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.3 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.7 percent.

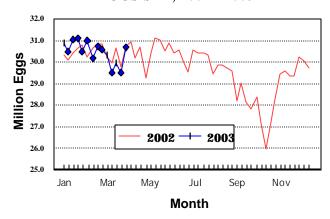
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.7 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending April 5, 2003, down slightly from the same period last year, but up 4 percent from the previous week.

	NET P	LACEME	NTS	CHIC	KS HATC	HED	EGGS SET			
Week Ending	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	
	1,0	00		1,000			1,000			
Mar. 1	24,553	24,680	101	25,023	25,645	102	30,859	30,603	99	
Mar. 8	25,518	25,491	100	25,433	25,042	98	30,238	30,315	100	
Mar. 15	23,918	23,738	99	25,522	25,582	100	29,964	29,522	99	
Mar. 22	23,490	24,173	103	25,539	25,419	100	30,641	29,982	98	
Mar. 29	24,294	24,592	101	25,067	25,098	100	29,747	29,511	99	
Apr. 5	24,056	23,746	99	24,711	24,422	99	30,730	30,672	100	

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

	EGGS SET (in Thousands)						CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/		Week Ending					1/	
STATE	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	%	01-Mar	08-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	%	
Alabama	28,325 *	28,227	27,815 *	28,204	95	20,287	21,816	21,484 *	21,568	21,078 *	21,442	99	
ARKANSAS	29,522 *	29,982	29,511	30,672	100	24,680	25,491	23,738	24,173	24,592	23,746	99	
Delaware	3,765	3,711	3,633	3,859	109	4,997	4,688	4,570	4,988	5,270 *	5,258	92	
Florida	1,452 *	1,634	1,597	1,573	66	1,752	1,798	1,668	1,566	1,632	1,392	60	
Georgia	31,387 *	31,212 *	31,092 *	31,778	98	25,634	24,378	25,065 *	25,718 *	25,471 *	25,219	97	
Kentucky	6,430 *	6,316	6,291	6,485	95	5,532 *	5,739 *	4,964 *	5,343 *	5,171 *	5,324	103	
Maryland	10,053	9,509	9,516 *	10,050	101	5,920	5,242	6,260	6,108	6,258 *	6,592	113	
Mississippi	18,882	19,110	19,116	19,229	101	15,534	15,579	15,850	16,374	16,390	16,209	104	
N. Carolina	18,489 *	18,680	18,985	18,622	95	14,332	14,199	14,729	15,066	15,134	14,897	101	
Oklahoma	6,672	6,580	6,219	6,607	102	4,840	3,634	4,458	4,825	4,357	4,851	90	
Pennsylvania	3,496	3,405 *	3,841 *	3,581	90	2,422	2,479	2,358	2,588 *	2,639 *	2,545	95	
S. Carolina	4,842	4,903	4,983	4,911	104	3,134	4,812	4,430	3,827	4,020	4,201	116	
Texas	14,750 *	14,502 *	14,756 *	14,990	96	11,657	11,970 *	12,391 *	12,417 *	12,265 *	12,194	101	
Virginia	6,632	6,637	6,714	6,521	100	5,847	5,854	5,334	5,258	5,407 *	5,358	86	
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	20,331	20,871	20,693 *	20,818	99	16,980	17,551 *	19,940 *	19,306 *	19,566 *	18,444	104	
Total 2003	205,028 *	205,279 *	204,762 *	207,900		163,548 *	165,230 *	167,239 *	169,125 *	169,250 *	167,672		
Total 2002	208,001	208,762	207,728	212,490		169,215	171,686	172,382	171,346	171,323	168,978		
% Prev. Year	99	98	99	98		97	96	97	99	99	99		
Approximate Marketing Date 2003 19-Apr 26-Apr 03-May 10-May 17-May 24-May													

^{*} Revised.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 208 million eggs during the week ending April 5, 2003. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 5, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through April 5, 2003 were 2.32 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

^{1/} Current week as percent of the same week last year.